

7.0 List of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Design Considerations

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7.1 Mitigation Measures

7.1.1 Biological Resources

Mitigation for Impact BI-1: Temporary indirect noise impacts to nesting special-status birds from project equipment.

M-BI-1 To mitigate indirect noise impacts from tree removal and wood debris staging site activities on nesting special-status birds (e.g., endangered, threatened, state fully protected, County Group 1 or 2), a County-approved biologist shall conduct a pre-work survey of individual work areas to determine the presence of nesting special-status bird species or the use of the DDD trees as lodging for other animals (wildlife trees) that potentially would be exposed to noise-producing equipment typically generating noise levels greater than 60 dB(A) Leq. The pre-work survey must be conducted within 10 calendar days prior to the start of DDD tree removal activities on any particular participating parcel. Noise-producing equipment shall not be operated within 500 feet of a special-status bird's active nest on that particular site during the breeding season (January 15 – July 15) or until the County-approved consulting biologist has determined that all young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. For active golden eagle nest sites, this buffer distance shall be increased to 4,000 feet from the nest.

7.1.2 Cultural Resources

Mitigation for Impact CU-1: Direct Impact to Previously Unknown Human Remains.

M-CU-1 In the event that human remains are uncovered during tree removal activities, the County-retained RPF shall coordinate with the County archaeologist to notify the San Diego County Coroner's Office, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento, and local Native American representatives. Fieldwork shall be discontinued in the area of any such discovery. The Native American representative and the County of San Diego shall be consulted to determine a preferred course of action, and the burial shall be treated accordingly.

7.1.3 Noise

Mitigation for Impact NO-1: Temporary direct noise impacts at wood debris staging site(s) in excess of noise ordinance standards and Impact NO-2: Substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

M-NO-1 To mitigate direct noise impacts from wood debris staging site activities, the following items shall be incorporated into the wood debris staging site development:

- 1) Selection of wood debris staging sites that are not within 500 feet of residences, when feasible;

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- 2) Placement of the tub grinder (the noisiest piece of equipment) at the wood debris staging site(s) as far away from adjacent sensitive receptors as possible. To meet the noise ordinance requirement of 75 decibels or less at the property line, the tub grinding/chipping operation will need to be at least 460 feet from the property line or any occupied property where the noise is being received.
- 3) Operation of the tub grinder at the wood debris staging site(s) shall not exceed 5 hours per day and shall be timed to occur in the middle of the day;
- 4) Identification of a minimum of two wood debris staging sites to alternate between every two to three months so that equipment noise at any one staging site remains temporary in nature; and
- 5) Temporary placement and stockpiling of wood material and chip piles in such a manner as to provide additional vertical screening for noise level reduction while maintaining compliance with State and County regulations for fire safety and wood debris clearance standards.

7.2 Design Considerations

7.2.1 Air Quality

- The reuse of woody debris and biomass through burning in open-air curtain burners and/or other incineration not classified as a diversion by the CIWMB shall be prohibited.
- Visible track-out from public streets shall be removed twice a day.
- Haul trucks shall be covered or maintained with at least 12 inches of freeboard to reduce blow-off during hauling.
- Approach routes to tree removal sites shall be cleaned daily during dry weather.
- A 20 mile-per-hour speed limit shall be adhered to on unpaved surfaces.

7.2.2 Biological Resources

- A biological resources survey shall be conducted on each participating parcel prior to initiating DDD tree removal activities. Areas with sensitive biological resources that have the potential to be affected by DDD tree removal activities shall be deleted from the treatment area and avoided.
- DDD trees in wetland or riparian habitats, including but not limited to freshwater marsh, southern riparian forest, southern coast live oak riparian forest, southern riparian scrub, or southern willow scrub, shall not be removed.
- Within ten days of felling, each DDD tree marked for removal would be inspected (including branches and cavities) by a qualified consulting biologist for the presence of active nests or other animal lodgings, and if such is detected, the tree would not be removed. Individual trees found to support active nests or other animal lodgings would be remarked as “no cut” or “wildlife” trees, and deleted from the treatment area map.

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- Prior to the commencement of tree removal operations, all tree removal workers would receive environmental awareness training regarding sensitive biological resources that occur in the project area and related project conditions and mitigation measures.

7.2.3 Cultural Resources

- A cultural resources survey shall be conducted on each participating parcel prior to initiating tree removal activities. Areas of cultural resources determined to be significant by the County archeologist will be protected and avoided by excluding tree removal activities.
- Prior to the commencement of tree removal operations, all tree removal workers would receive environmental awareness training regarding cultural resources that may occur in the project area and related project conditions and mitigation measures.
- Tree removal activities shall be suspended if new cultural material is discovered. Work shall recommence once the County staff archaeologist determines appropriate avoidance and protection measures.

7.2.4 Traffic-Project Access

- No new road construction or reconstruction shall occur.
- The contractor shall obtain traffic control permits from the appropriate agency for all work within public roadways.
- All vehicles and heavy equipment shall use only existing developed roads and parking areas to the extent practical.
- All temporary access routes, tree fall landings, and log extraction skid trails shall be rehabilitated per the California Forest Practice Rules following use.
- Temporary trails that enter a public roadway would be blocked, using a combination of natural barriers (e.g., rocks, logs, etc.), after project completion.
- Existing fences or barriers that are damaged during the tree removal process shall be repaired by the tree removal contractor.

7.2.5 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- A written accident prevention program addressing fire prevention and worker/public safety shall be prepared.
- The contractor shall adhere to all State and Federal Occupational Health and Safety Codes (OSHA and Cal-OSHA).
- The contractor shall adhere to all County regulations and requirements for fire suppression, including adherence to fire danger level restrictions and conditions.

7.2.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

- Tractor or heavy equipment operations shall be prohibited on slopes greater than 50% and on known slides or unstable areas.

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- Erosion control measures shall be implemented consistent with California Forest Practice Rules requirements.